(e) what steps are proposed to review the entire export strategy to prevent India from being affected by external recessions and trade cycles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Exports during 2007-08 are likely to reach a level of US $ 152-155 billion as against a target of US$ 160 billion set for the year.

(c) As per the preliminary estimates, during 2007-08 (April-January), there was a negative growth, in US $ terms, in the export of a number of items including RMG (Cotton including accessories); Primary & Semi-finished Iron & Steel; Plastic & Linoleum; Non-ferrous Metals; Marine Products; Sports Goods; Handicrafts; Carpets etc. Slow growth was also recorded in the exports of Cotton Yarn Fabrics Made-up etc. and Electronic Goods.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It is the endeavour of the Government to promote exports in line with India's comparative advantage and the emerging situation in the domestic as well as international markets. Accordingly, the developments in the domestic and overseas markets are monitored on regular basis and various measures are announced under the Foreign Trade Policy from time to time.

Export of key natural resources

2028. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to export key natural resources is leading to the limitations of productivity expansion in the public sector companies;

(b) the details of key natural resources exported to various countries in the last four years; and

(c) the details of the supply orders pending from various public sector undertakings with reference to key minerals such as iron, chromate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Information being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tax exemption to SEZ

2029. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of tax exemption granted to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) so far, year-wise; and

(b) the circumstances under which such exemptions are being granted whereas area based tax concessions to six districts of North Bengal has been denied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The quantum of exemptions is dependent on the investments, exports and profits generated there from by the Developers and units, which cannot be estimated at this stage.